

"Take Along" Tagging Guide



1. BEFORE YOU CATCH YOUR FISH:

First decide if you plan to tag and release any fish caught. If so, use a circle hook which reduces deep or foul hooking when bait fishing or a single circle or single 'J' hook if trolling. Do not use double rigged 'J' hooks when releasing your catch.

2. WHILE FISHING:

Never attempt to tag a fish while it is jumping or thrashing about. Bring your fish to leader as quickly as possible but wait until the fish is calm and swimming beside the boat before tagging.

3. TAGGING:

Tag the fish as it is being towed alongside the boat by inserting the tag in the back muscle below the tallest part of the dorsal fin. Avoid the gills, head, and stomach. Take care not to allow your fish to injure itself on the vessel's transom or hull.

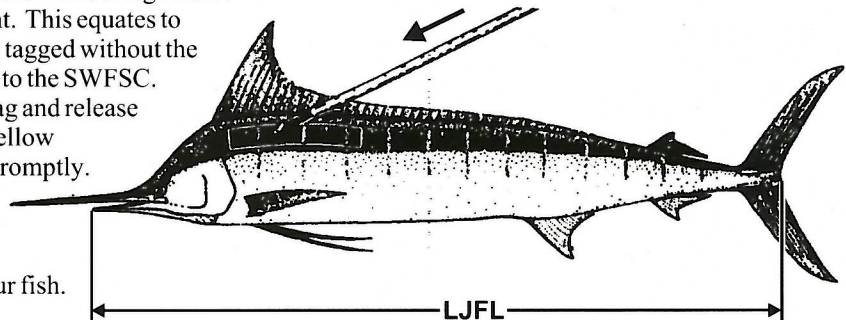
4. RELEASING:

Revive all fish by slowly towing it through the water, allowing water to flow over the gills until its normal color returns and it begins to swim on its own. Remove the hook with a good pair of pliers, or if deeply hooked in the throat or stomach, release it by cutting the leader as close to the hook as possible.

5. COMPLETE THE BILLFISH TAGGING REPORT CARD:

Fill out the yellow Billfish Tagging Report card completely and as accurately as possible indicating latitude and longitude, date of release, estimated length (lower jaw-to-fork length; LJFL) and estimated weight of the fish. Include name and mailing address of the angler and boat captain and other remarks as appropriate. Return cards promptly to the Southwest Fisheries Science Center.

PLEASE NOTE: Billfish recaptures without tag release information now stand at 12 percent. This equates to nearly 6,400 billfish that have been tagged without the release information being returned to the SWFSC. Make your tagging effort count. Tag and release your fish skillfully and return the yellow BILLFISH TAGGING REPORT promptly. Though easily forgotten in the heat of battle and glow of success, returning the card is the most critical and final step in tagging your fish.



COMPLETING THE BILLFISH TAGGING REPORT CARD

- Fill out the card completely and as accurately as possible.
- Indicate latitude, longitude and locally known fishing area.
- Estimate the length of the fish as "tip of lower jaw-to-fork" length (LJFL).
- Estimate weight of the fish.
- Include any remarks, club name and complete address of the angler and the boat captain.
- Return cards promptly to the Southwest Fisheries Science Center. Tagging is of no value unless this Billfish Tagging Report card is returned. Postage is paid if mailed in the U.S.A.

NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service		If mailing outside USA, postage must be affixed	
BILLFISH TAGGING REPORT		Please return card, Otherwise tagging is of no value	
PLEASE FILL IN DETAILS AND MAIL TODAY. TAG #: A33333			
Latitude: 33° 14' N	Longitude: 118° 14' W		
Locality: East End Catalina Is. CA			
Species: Striped Marlin	Date: 6/10/98		
Estimate length (tip of jaw to fork of tail): 72	inches	Weight: 140	lbs.
Fish Condition: Good	Bait type: Plastic Lure		
Angler: Bill Fish	Fight time (minutes): 23		
Address: P.O. Box 271 La Jolla, CA		Zip: 92038	
Club: Anglers Club			
Captain: Capt. Joe Dew		Boat name: Good Grief	
Address: P.O. Box 271 La Jolla, CA		Zip: 92038	

Response to this form is voluntary.
OMB 0648-0009, expiration date 08/31/2001
NOAA 88-162, 2/99